

JAN 13 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on 2003.

Signed: Laura Hulac
Laura Hulac

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Lynn Bich-Quy Le

Serial No. 09/894,475

Filed: June 27, 2001

For: DISTORTION FREE LASER WELDED
FLUID BEARING DESIGN

Art Unit: 2834

Examiner: Nguyen, Tran N.

Attorney Docket No.: STL 2987

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 4, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed October 4, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A spindle motor for use in a disk drive comprising a shaft supporting a thrust plate at one end thereof, a sleeve surrounding the shaft, and rotatable relative to the shaft and supporting a hub on the outer surface thereof, the sleeve having a surface adjacent the thrust plate and cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing and with the thrust plate to define a first fluid dynamic thrust bearing, a counterplate welded to an upraised axial shoulder of the sleeve and having a surface located adjacent a surface of the thrust plate to define at least a second fluid dynamic thrust bearing,